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KAMAYOTO'S LAST STAND

AS GENERAL MACARTHUR'S FORCES 'ISLAND-HOPPED' FROM KISKA TO TARAWA, THEN TO THE MARIANAS, ON A WESTERN PACIFIC ISLAND, A BRILLIANT JAPANESE GENERAL NAMED KAMAYOTO HAD A CUNNING PLAN TO WIPE OUT ANY AMERICAN FORCE WHO DARED ATTACK HIS ISLAND FORTRESS!

THE SEA CHANNELS BY WHICH AN ENEMY INVASION FLEET MUST APPROACH ARE HEAVILY MINED! OUR ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS ARE NEW AND EFFICIENT....
...AND IN CAMOUFLAGED CAVES BESIDE THE AIRSTRIP I HAVE FIGHTERS AND BOMBERS TO REPEL ENEMY AIRCRAFT!
BUT IF ALL THESE DEFENSES FAIL, THE ENEMY CAN NEVER REACH MY HIDDEN CHAMBERS 500 FEET INSIDE SOLID ROCK! I HAVE ENOUGH SUPPLIES TO LAST FOR YEARS!

BATTLEFIELD ACTION Vol. 4, No. 72, December, 1981.

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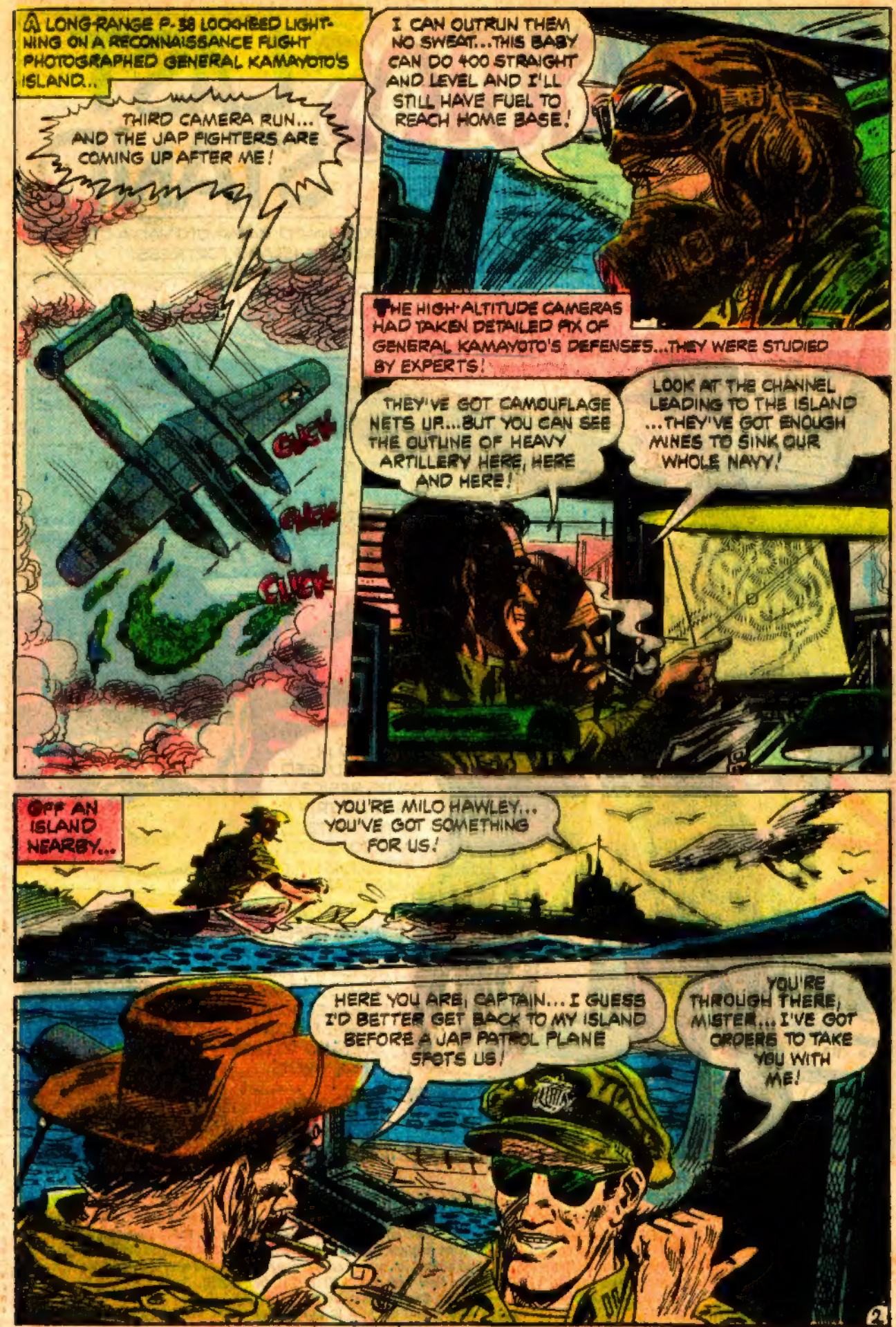
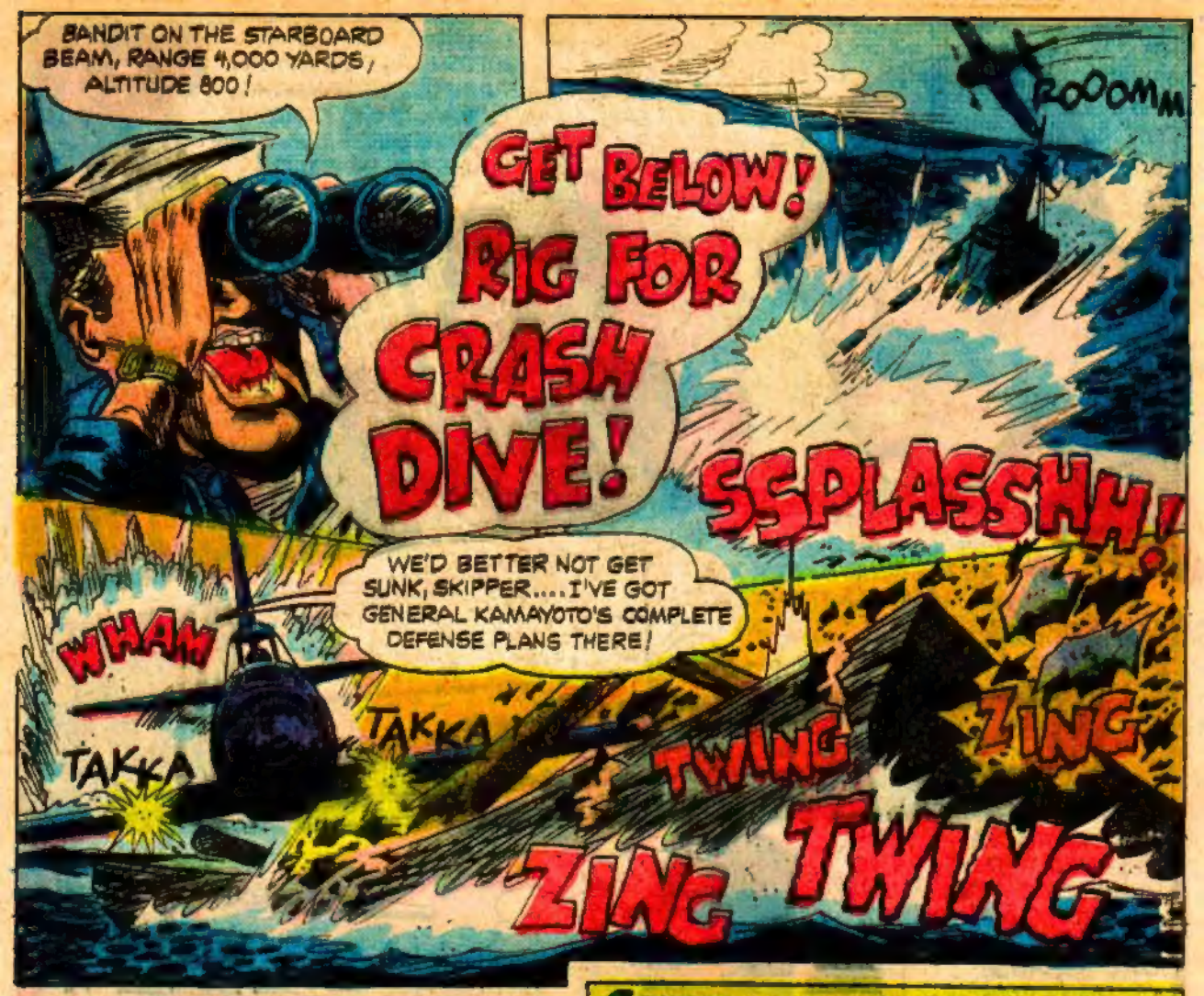

A LONG-RANGE P-38 LOCKHEED LIGHTNING ON A RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHT PHOTOGRAPHED GENERAL KAMAYOTO'S ISLAND..
THIRD CAMERA RUN... AND THE JAP FIGHTERS ARE COMING UP AFTER ME!
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
I CAN OUTRUN THEM NO SWEAT...THIS BABY CAN DO 400 STRAIGHT AND LEVEL AND I'LL STILL HAVE FUEL TO REACH HOME BASE!
THE HIGH-ALTITUDE CAMERAS HAD TAKEN DETAILED FIX OF GENERAL KAMAYOTO'S DEFENSES...THEY WERE STUDIED BY EXPERTS!
THEY'VE GOT CAMOUFLAGE NETS UP...BUT YOU CAN SEE THE OUTLINE OF HEAVY ARTILLERY HERE, HERE AND HERE!
LOOK AT THE CHANNEL LEADING TO THE ISLAND ...THEY'VE GOT ENOUGH MINES TO SINK OUR WHOLE NAVY!
OFF AN ISLAND NEARBY...
YOU'RE MILO HAWLEY... YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR US!
HERE YOU ARE, CAPTAIN... I GUESS I'D BETTER GET BACK TO MY ISLAND BEFORE A JAP PATROL PLANE SPOTS US!
YOU'RE THROUGH THERE, MISTER... I'VE GOT ORDERS TO TAKE YOU WITH ME!
2


BANDIT ON THE STARBOARD BEAM, RANGE 4,000 YARDS, ALTITUDE 800!
GET BELOW! RIG FOR CRASH DIVE!
ROOOMM
SSPLASSHH!
WE'D BETTER NOT GET SUNK, SKIPPER.... I'VE GOT GENERAL KAMAYOTO'S COMPLETE DEFENSE PLANS THERE!
WHAM
TAKKA
TAKKA
TWING
ZING
ZING
TWING

THE ADMIRALS AND GENERALS, BOTH MARINE AND ARMY, STUDIED THE AERIAL PHOTOS AND THE AUSTRALIAN ISLAND WATCHER'S ISLAND MAP AND BEGAN TO MAKE THEIR INVASION PLANS...
GENERAL MACARTHUR WANTS THE JOB DONE WITH ONE MARINE AND ONE ARMY DIVISION.... PLUS PLENTY OF HELP FROM THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE!

GENERAL KAMAYOTO WAS AWARE OF THE U.S. RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER HIS ISLAND AND ALSO AWARE OF OTHER SURVEILLANCE...
SAIPON WAS HEAVILY DEFENDED TOO, GENERAL KAMAYOTO! THE AMERICANS EACH DAY HAVE MORE CARRIERS, MORE BATTLESHIPS, AND ALWAYS MORE AND MORE MEN!
EVEN IF THEY SUCCEED IN ATTACKING THIS ISLAND...
3

...THEY WILL NEVER PENETRATE TO THIS INNER CORE OF SECURITY! WE WILL BE SAFE HERE FOR YEARS.
OBSERVE, YISHI....EACH BUTTON CAN DESTROY A TUNNEL...,TRAPPING THE ENEMY....THESE CONTROLS DETONATE MINES....MACHINE GUNS CAN BE FIRED ELECTRICALLY!
AND WE HAVE AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER AND ENOUGH FOOD TO LAST A DECADE.
THE TROOPS ASSIGNED TO DEFEND THIS INNER CORE ARE ESPECIALLY SELECTED AND TRAINED! THIS IS THE MOST IMPREGNABLE MILITARY COMPLEX IN THE WORLD!
ADMIRAL HARDWELL WAS IN OVER-ALL COMMAND OF THE INVASION OF GENERAL KAMAYOTO'S ISLAND....HE ASSEMBLED HIS VAST FLEET....
WE'VE GOT TO PROVIDE HEAVY AIR COVER FOR THE MINE-SWEEPERS!

KAMAYOTO HAD DEPLOYED DIFFERENT TYPES OF MINES...SOME WERE MAGNETICALLY DETONATED... OTHERS WERE ACOUSTICALLY FIRED AS A SHIP'S PROPELLERS SOUNDED OVERHEAD!
THE MINESWEEPERS ARE TAKING A BEATING BUT THEY'RE GETTING THE JOB DONE!
WHAM!
BROOOMMM!
USN
THEN, THE CARRIER PLANES BEGAN POUNDING KAMAYOTO'S DEFENSES!
WHAM
BAROOMM
NOW, IT CAME DOWN TO THIS....THE MEN WHO HAD TO REALLY WIN THE BATTLE....
C'MON, MOVE IT....GET ACROSS THE BEACH... DIG IN!
TWING
BING
ZING
5

DEEP IN HIS SNUG LITTLE CAVE, GENERAL KAMAYOTO RECEIVED NEWS OF THE BATTLE RAGING FAR OVERHEAD...
AMERICAN MARINES HAVE OVERRUN OUR DEFENSES, HONORABLE GENERAL!
STOP SHIVERING LIKE AN OLD WOMAN, COLONEL!
REMEMBER...EVEN THOUGH THEY CAPTURE THE ENTIRE ISLAND, THEY CANNOT DISLODGE US!
THE MARINES STORMED THE JAPANESE PILLBOXES....
WHAAAAM
THAT DID IT....NOW LET'S GO IN AND CLEAN 'EM OUT!
THEY ALL DO THE SAME THING... THEY RUN FOR THE CAVES WHEN WE DIG 'EM OUT OF THEIR HOLES!
BAM
BAM
BAM
WE'LL LOSE THOUSANDS OF MEN TRYING TO TAKE THOSE CAVES, SIR!
WE WON'T EVEN TRY TO TAKE THE CAVES, MAJOR!
THIS IS COLONEL RILEY! I WANT MAJOR RAVELLI OF THE COMBAT ENGINEERS!

DID YOU GET YOUR HEAVY EQUIPMENT ASHORE, VITO?
WE'RE ALL SET TO GO, COLONEL!
NO MARINES RUSHED THE JAP CAVES...BUT A DOZEN BULLDOZERS ALL OVER THE ISLAND WENT INTO ACTION AND....
KLANK KLANK KLANK
IT'LL ONLY TAKE AN HOUR OR SO TO SEAL OFF THE CAVES!
KLANK KLANK
KRUNCHH
I FOLLOWED YOUR ORDERS, COLONEL.... THE INTERPRETER JUST GAVE THEM YOUR MESSAGE!
GOOD....I'D HATE TO HAVE TO GIVE THE ORDER TO...
WE LEFT ONE CAVE OPEN... THEY CAN LEAVE THEIR GUNS AND COME OUT WITH THEIR HANDS UP...
PASS THE WORD.... PREPARE FOR A COUPLE THOUSAND PRISONERS.... THOSE CAVES WERE LOADED AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE GOT ONE OF THEIR TOP GENERALS!
END

CLASSIC WEAPON: FOKKER DVII

BY 1918 THE BRITISH HAD PERFECTED THE SE5a, AND ALONG WITH THE FRENCH SPAD-ALLIED FLIERS WERE TAKING A HEAVY TOLL FROM THE GERMAN JAGD-GECHWADERS! THE WAR-WEARY ALBATROS AND THE FAMOUS FOKKER TRI-PLANE WERE BEING OUT-CLASSED!

THEN..THEY CAME..GERMANY'S LAST AERIAL EFFORT IN THE GREAT WAR..THE GARISHLY PAINTED, SINISTER-LINED FOKKER DVII! THEY CAME IN AT OVER 20,000 FEET..STRIKING LIKE VIPERS AT THE ALTITUDE SLUGGISH SE5'S!

IT IS SAID THE DVII COULD 'HANG ON ITS PROP' AS IT DIRECTED WITHERING FIRE INTO THE PUNISHED ALLIED CRAFT!

OF COURSE, THIS OUTSTANDING FIGHTER WAS 'TOO LITTLE-TOO LATE' TO PREVENT GERMANY'S DEFEAT - BUT ITS CONTRIBUTION TO 'GOD WAR' TOOK AN AWESOME TOLL IN THE DYING DAYS OF 1918!

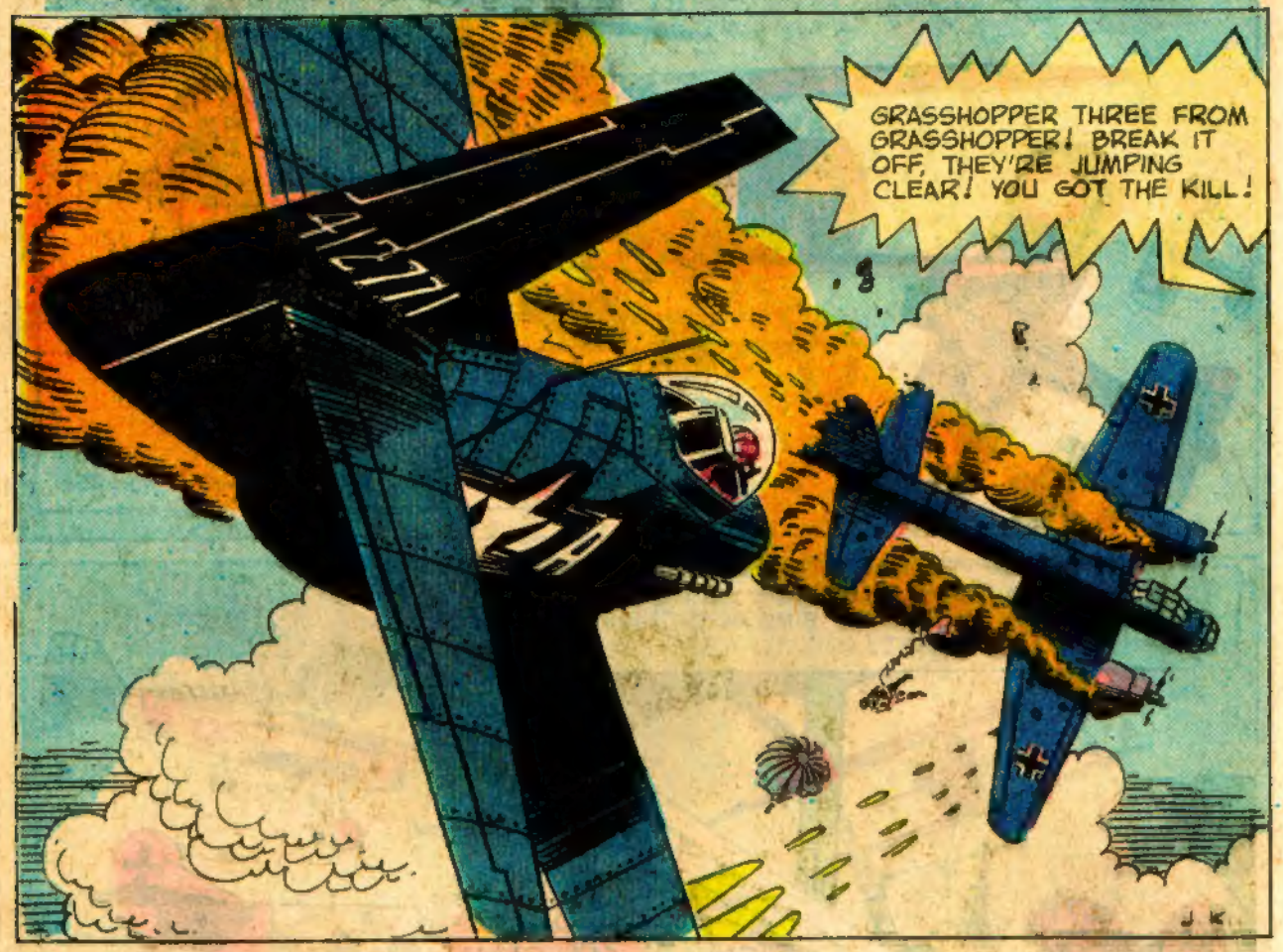
THE DVII WAS YEARS AHEAD OF ITS TIME, AND A SMALL FEW SURVIVED TO MAKE EXHIBITION FLIGHTS EVEN TODAY!

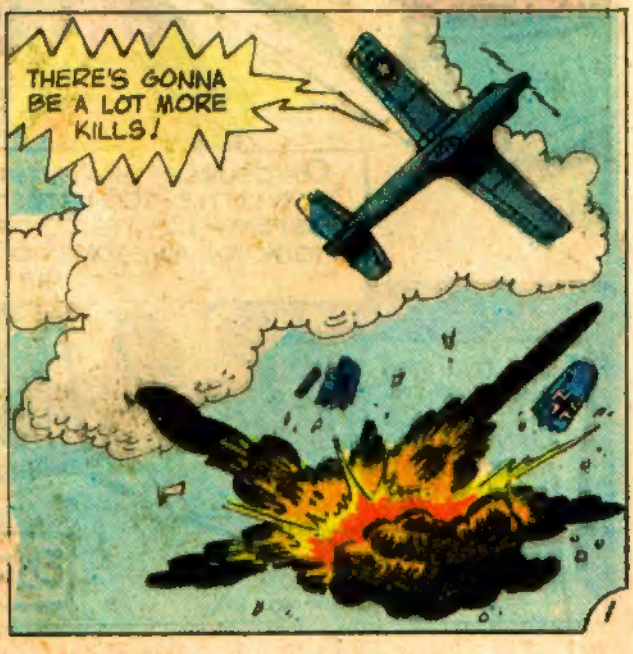
END

D-5539

CLOUDS OF GLORY

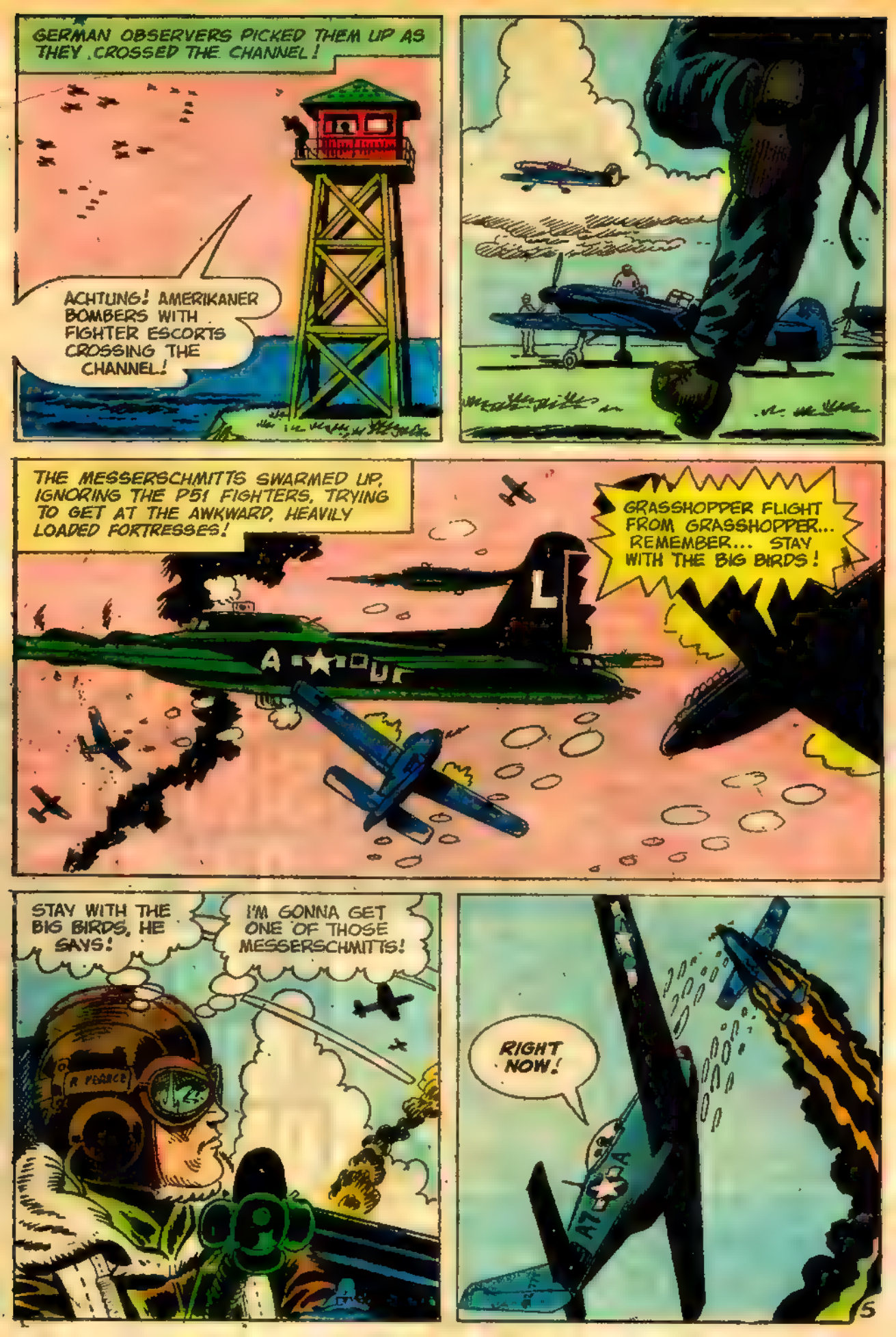
WHEN RAY PEARCE ARRIVED IN THE E.T.O., A BRASH 23 YEAR OLD 2ND LIEUTENANT, HE WAS FLYING P51 MUSTANGS WITH THE EIGHTH AIR FORCE... AND HE BEGAN SHOOTING DOWN NAZI PLANES ON HIS FIRST MISSION OVER OCCUPIED EUROPE!

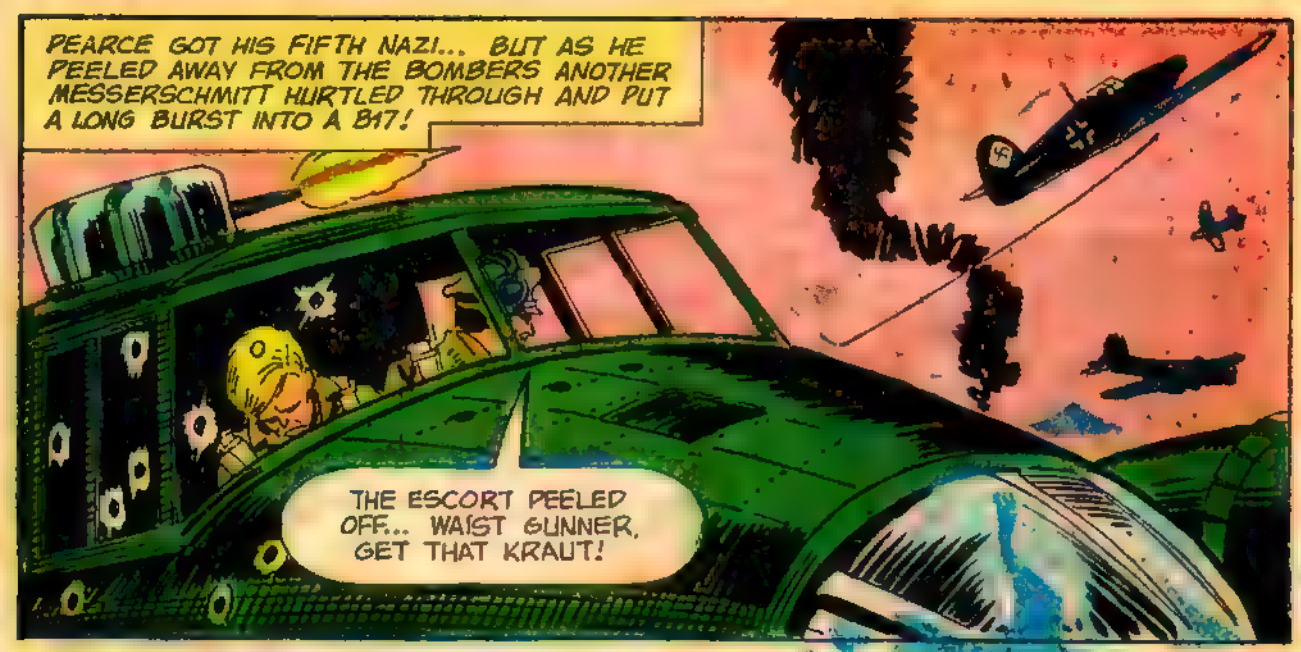


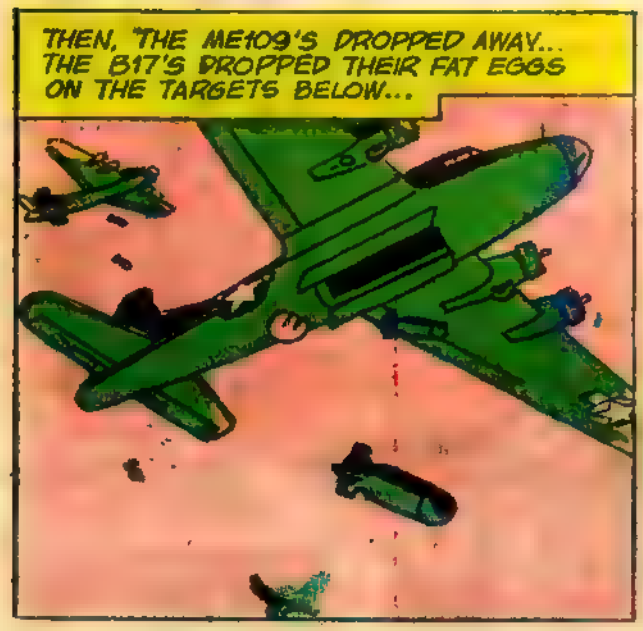


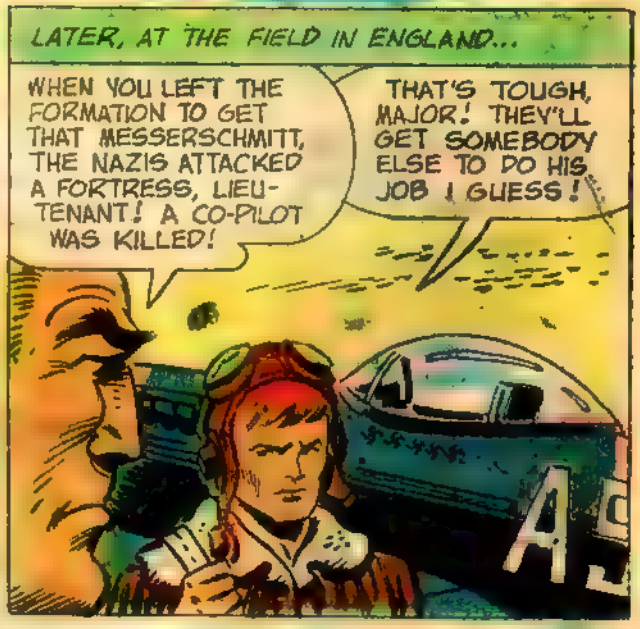
ACHTUNG! EIN AMERIKANER!
GRASSHOPPER THREE, REJOIN YOUR FORMATION!
MY RADIO MUST BE OUT... I CAN'T HEAR A THING!
LT. PEARCE, YOU'LL BE COURT-MARTIALED FOR THIS!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE UP THERE, SKIPPER...
WHOOM
... YOU CAN KEEP SCORE FOR ME!
LT. PEARCE GOT THREE NAZI PLANES THAT DAY... ON HIS SECOND MISSION!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR DISOBEYING A DIRECT ORDER, LIEUTENANT!
MAJOR GRADY, SIR! I WANT TO REPORT MY RADIO WAS OUT OF ORDER TODAY, SIR!
3.

A WAR CORRESPONDENT HEARD ABOUT THE KID WHO'D GOTTEN FOUR NAZIS ON HIS FIRST TWO MISSIONS AND HE WROTE A GLOWING STORY. IT WAS PEARCE'S FIRST TASTE OF FAME!
AND LT PEARCE IS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF THE SPLENDID TRAINING OUR AIR CORPS PERSONNEL ARE RECEIVING THESE DAYS ..
I WANT TO ADD THAT MAJOR GRADY, MY FLIGHT LEADER, HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL SINCE I ARRIVED HERE.
LT PEARCE DIDN'T GET HIS COURT-MARTIAL. IN FACT, HE WAS AWARDED AN AIR MEDAL AND HE KEPT ON 'DOING HIS THING'!
WE'RE ESCORTING BOMBERS INTO GERMANY THIS MORNING, PEARCE! OUR JOB ISN'T TO DESTROY ENEMY PLANES BUT TO GET THE BOMBERS IN AND OUT SAFELY!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, MAJOR! I'LL DO MY JOB!
THE MUSTANGS ESCORTED HIGH-FLYING B17 FLYING FORTRESSES INTO GERMANY!
4


GERMAN OBSERVERS PICKED THEM UP AS THEY CROSSED THE CHANNEL!
ACHTUNG! AMERIKANER BOMBERS WITH FIGHTER ESCORTS CROSSING THE CHANNEL!
THE MESSERSCHMITTS SWARMED UP, IGNORING THE P51 FIGHTERS, TRYING TO GET AT THE AWKWARD, HEAVILY LOADED FORTRESSES!
GRASSHOPPER FLIGHT FROM GRASSHOPPER... REMEMBER... STAY WITH THE BIG BIRDS!
STAY WITH THE BIG BIRDS, HE SAYS!
I'M GONNA GET ONE OF THOSE MESSERSCHMITTS!
RIGHT NOW!
5


PEARCE GOT HIS FIFTH NAZI... BUT AS HE PEELED AWAY FROM THE BOMBERS ANOTHER MESSERSCHMITT HURTLED THROUGH AND PUT A LONG BURST INTO A B17!
THE ESCORT PEELED OFF... WAIST GUNNER, GET THAT KRAUT!

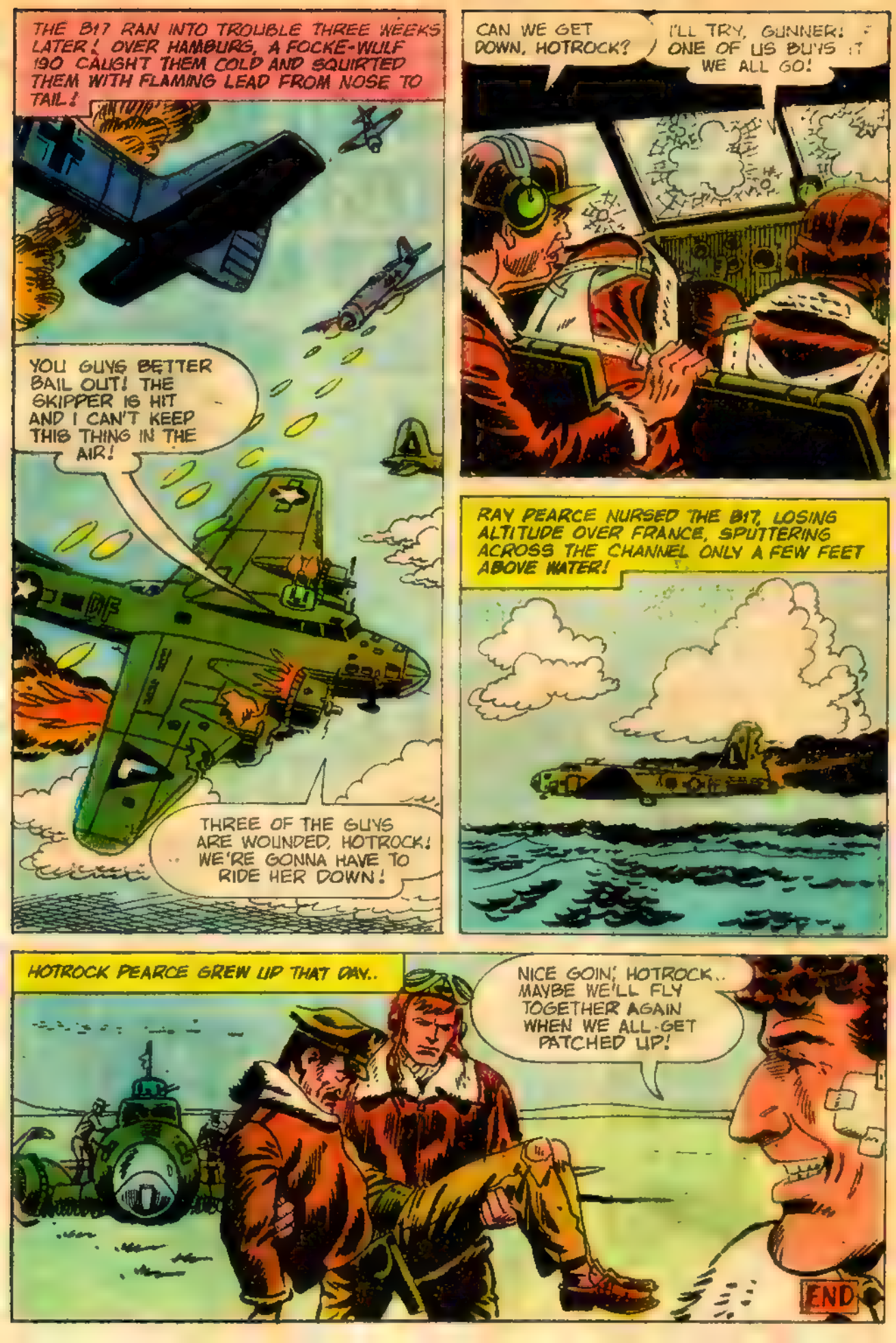

THEN, THE ME109'S DROPPED AWAY... THE B17'S DROPPED THEIR FAT EGGS ON THE TARGETS BELOW...


LATER, AT THE FIELD IN ENGLAND...
WHEN YOU LEFT THE FORMATION TO GET THAT MESSERSCHMITT, THE NAZIS ATTACKED A FORTRESS, LIEUTENANT! A CO-PILOT WAS KILLED!
THAT'S TOUGH, MAJOR! THEY'LL GET SOMEBODY ELSE TO DO HIS JOB I GUESS!

THEY'VE ALREADY GOT A REPLACEMENT, PEARCE... IT'S YOU! I TELEPHONED COLONEL BULL JENKINS AND WE DISCUSSED IT! A JEEP IS WAITING FOR YOU RIGHT NOW!

I'M NOT A BOMBER PILOT... I'M A FIGHTER PILOT!

LT. PEARCE MET THE REST OF THE CREW NEXT MORNING...
HEY, GUYS, THIS IS HOTSHOT PEARCE, THE FIGHTER PILOT WHO GOOFED OFF YESTERDAY WHEN JIMBO HEARN GOT CLOBBERED! I'M ARCH WOODALL, PEARCE... JIMBO WAS A FRIEND OF MINE!
GLAD TO M... OH!
JIMBO HEARN WAS A MIGHTY GOOD MAN, LIEUTENANT! I'LL BE WATCHIN' YOU... FIRST TIME YOU MAKE A WRONG MOVE, YOU AN' ME IS GONNA TANGLE!
SO, LT. PEARCE, HOTROCK FIGHTER PILOT, BECAME COPILOT IN A BOMBER... TAKING THE PLACE OF THE MAN WHO'D PERHAPS DIED BECAUSE OF HIM!
YOU DO YOUR CHORES, HOTROCK, OR I'LL REARRANGE YOUR BRIDGEWORK!
L
A
7


THE B17 RAN INTO TROUBLE THREE WEEKS LATER! OVER HAMBURG, A FOCKE-WULF 190 CAUGHT THEM COLD AND SQUIRTED THEM WITH FLAMING LEAD FROM NOSE TO TAIL!
YOU GUYS BETTER BAIL OUT! THE SKIPPER IS HIT AND I CAN'T KEEP THIS THING IN THE AIR!
THREE OF THE GUYS ARE WOUNDED, HOTROCK! WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO RIDE HER DOWN!
CAN WE GET DOWN, HOTROCK?
I'LL TRY, GUNNER! ONE OF US BUYS IT WE ALL GO!
RAY PEARCE NURSED THE B17, LOSING ALTITUDE OVER FRANCE, SPUTTERING ACROSS THE CHANNEL ONLY A FEW FEET ABOVE WATER!
HOTROCK PEARCE GREW UP THAT DAY..
NICE GOIN', HOTROCK.. MAYBE WE'LL FLY TOGETHER AGAIN WHEN WE ALL GET PATCHED UP!
END

T WAS MARCH, 1951 IN KOREA... THE FIGHTING WAS BITTER AND MARINE LT. DOUG HODKINS WAS TRYING TO KEEP HIS PLATOON FROM GETTING WIPED OUT BY THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS WHO HAD DUG IN ALONG THE RIDGE!
NEEDED: ONE MIRACLE!
GET UP BECKER!
ART TOM SUTTON
STORY doc GILL
COME ON... WE GOTTA HUNT COVER!
THE KOREAN TEMPLE, SKIPPER!
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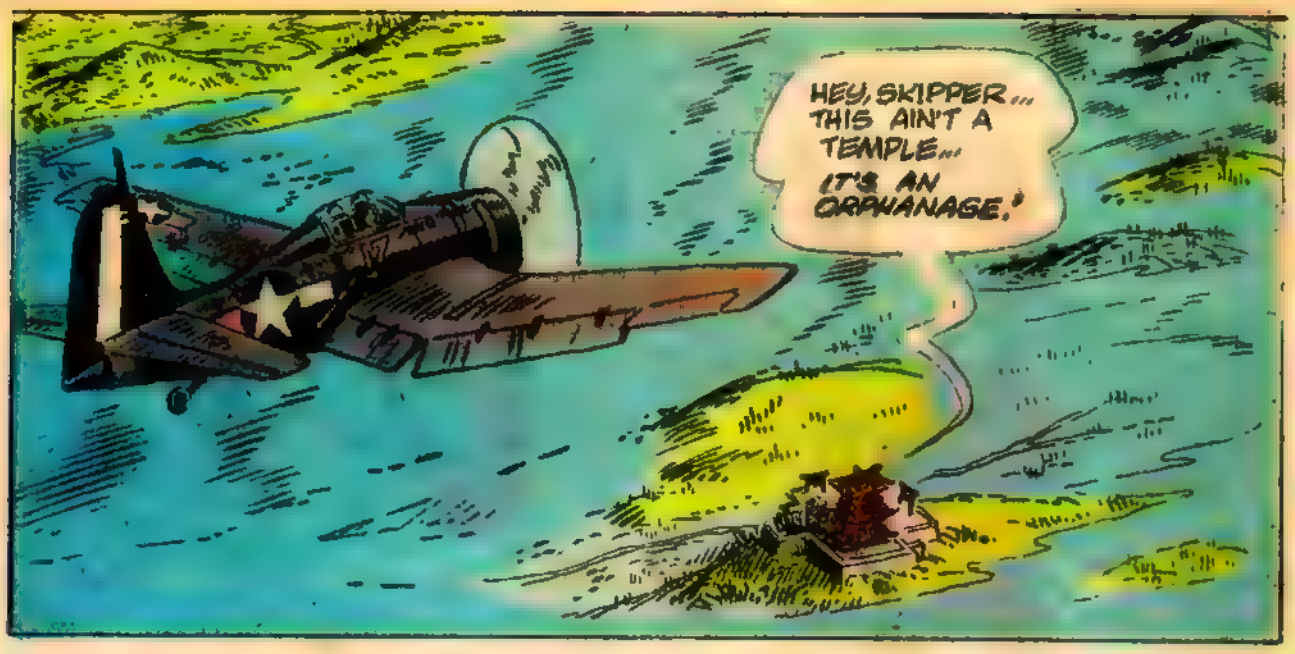
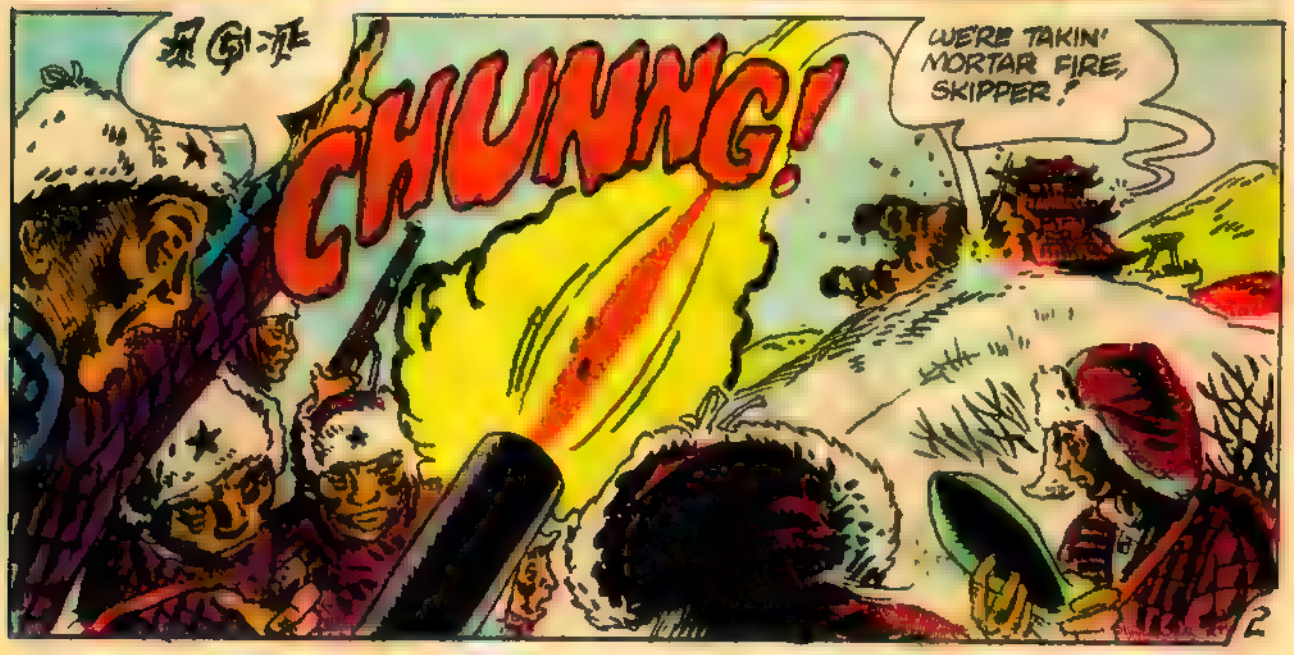
INSIDE, MIKE... THE MEDIC WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU!


HEY, SKIPPER... THIS AIN'T A TEMPLE... IT'S AN ORPHANAGE!

WE DIDN'T KNOW ANYONE WAS IN HERE, FRIEND, BUT WE CAN'T LEAVE NOW THAT WE'RE HERE! THE CHICOMS ARE OUTSIDE!
WE KNOW, LIEUTENANT! WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GET FOOD OR WATER FOR THESE CHILDREN!

PASS THE WORD... SHARE THE RATIONS AND WATER WITH THESE PEOPLE! TELL ROGERS TO KEEP TRYING TO FIX THAT RADIO!


CHUNNG!
WE'RE TAKIN' MORTAR FIRE, SKIPPER!

IN THE TEMPLE, AS NIGHT FELL, THE MARINES HEARD A STRANGE SOUND... BABIES CRYING FITFULLY!
WE HAD TWO GOATS BUT THEY DO NOT GIVE ENOUGH MILK! SOME OF THE WEAKER CHILDREN WILL DIE!
MAYBE NOT, BROTHER!
BOOM! BOOM!
THE BATTALION'S 400 YARDS SOUTH OF HERE... SOMEONE WILL BE WATCHING THIS PLACE... I HOPE SOMONE CAN READ MORSE CODE!
THERE'S A LIGHT IN THAT TEMPLE, SARGE! IT'S BLINKING... THEY'RE SENDING MORSE CODE!
HE'S SENDING IN MORSE... SLOW ENOUGH FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND!
NEED MILK... FOR BABIES... IN TEMPLE!
THEY'LL SHOW A LIGHT... THEY WANT AN AIR DROP RIGHT AWAY!
WAIT'LL THE AIR FORCE HEARS THIS REQUEST, CAPTAIN!
3

THE COMMIES GOT HEAVY MORTARS ON THE SLOPE 200 YARDS DOWN THE HILL!
CORPORAL, THEY'LL POUND US TO RUBBLE IF WE LET 'EM STAY!
I GET THE MESSAGE, SKIPPER! YOU WANT A COUPLE VOLUNTEERS TO BRUSH 'EM OFF THE SLOPE!
CPL. JIGGS HENAGAN TOOK THREE MARINES THROUGH A DRAINAGE DITCH ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE BUILDING... BELLIED ACROSS THE RIDGE AND THEN...
RATATAT-A TAT TAT TAT TAK A TAK
THAT'S IT!
SMASH THE MORTARS AND THEN HEAD BACK!
WE COULD USE A LITTLE HELP FROM THE U.S. NAVY RIGHT ABOUT NOW!
IT'S TOO CLOSE TO SUPPER TIME... JIGS... THEY'VE GOTTA KNOCK OFF AT QUITTIN' TIME!

A C46 CREW STANDING BY AT A FIELD OUTSIDE SEOUL GOT THE ASSIGNMENT...
CANNED MILK
THAT'LL HOLD TOGETHER... THE CANNED MILK MIGHT GET DENTED WHEN IT HITS BUT NOT ALL OF IT!
THEY'LL SHOW THREE LIGHTS IN A ROW, MAX... KEEP ON THE LOOK-OUT!
THERE ARE THE LIGHTS! STAND BY TO DROP THE MILK!
THERE THEY ARE!
THE COMMIES SAW THE DRIFTING PARACHUTES AND TRIED TO REACH THEM FIRST BUT...
GET THE MILK INSIDE, MIKE!

VOLUNTEERS LUGGED IN THE MILK WHILE THEIR COMRADES FOUGHT OFF A CHICOM ATTACK...

HEAT THE MILK IN YOUR HELMET, CORPORAL.

POW POW!

K-POW

THE CHILDREN ARE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT, LIEUTENANT!

YEAH... IF WE CAN KEEP THE CHICOMS FROM BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS, BROTHER!

OUTSIDE, THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS HAD SENT FOR REINFORCEMENTS... THEY WERE ABOUT TO ATTACK IN FORCE!

偵察隊

THE BOMBERS CAME OVER IN THE DARKNESS... WITH RADAR SCOPES SHOWING THE RIDGE AND THE TEMPLE BELOW! THEY DROPPED THEIR BOMBS PERILOUSLY CLOSE... BUT CAUGHT THE CHICOMS WIDE OPEN!

AND WHEN MORNING CAME... THE WALLS WERE STILL STANDING BUT...

BA-BOOM! BOOM!

THE COMMIES GOT US RINGED IN, LIEUTENANT!

BATTALION KNOWS WE'RE HERE, SERGEANT... THEY WON'T LET THE COMMIES OVER RUN US... I HOPE!

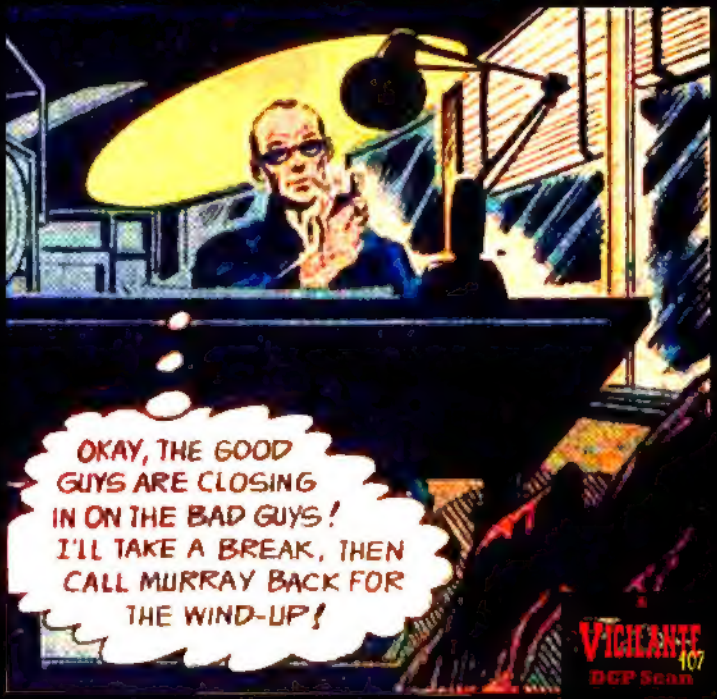
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE KID, BROTHER?
HE WAS FRIGHTENED BY THE SHELLING, SERGEANT. I MUST LOOK AT THE OTHER CHILDREN, CAN YOU HOLD THE BOY?
ROCK-A-BYE BABY DUM-DEE-DUMDUM.
HEY SARGE, DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT KID?
SO...
THE FIRST GUY WHO OPENS HIS MOUTH GET'S KICKED IN THE TEETH!
ROCK-A-BYE BABY DUMM-DEE-DUMDUM, SARGE,
HERE THEY COME!
THERE WERE TWO PLATOONS OF CHI COMS... THEY CAME FAST, LEAPING OVER THEIR OWN DEAD IN A FANATICAL ATTEMPT TO TAKE THE ORPHANAGE!
DRIVE 'EM BACK... THE KOREAN BROTHERS SAY THEY'LL BE EXECUTED IF THE CHICOMS CAPTURE THE PLACE!
WHERE'S THE AIR FORCE NOW!
K-POW!
BAM!
BAM!
K-POW!
POW!

IF THE GRENADE GOES OFF IN HERE...
AAAAGGHHH!!
MADE IT!
HERE COMES THE AIR FORCE!
THE COMMIES HEADED ACROSS THE RIDGE, BROTHER! LET'S GET THESE KIDS OUT BEFORE THEY COUNTER-ATTACK!
I THINK THAT IS BEST, LIEUTENANT!
BATTALION WISED OFF AS THE PLATOON CAME OUT... EACH ONE CARRYING A KOREAN ORPHAN... BUT THERE WERE TEARS IN SOME BATTLE-WEARY EYES AS THEY WENT BY!
WELL DONE, LIEU-TENANT!
THANK YOU, SIR.
THE END

JIM APARO

1932 - 2005

One of the last TRUE comic book professionals


OKAY, THE GOOD GUYS ARE CLOSING IN ON THE BAD GUYS! I'LL TAKE A BREAK, THEN CALL MURRAY BACK FOR THE WIND-UP!
VIGILANTE 107
DCP Scan